

Parks and Green Spaces Levy

Briefing to City Council Parks and Seattle Center Committee

December 1, 2011

The 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy provided \$146M for parks and green space acquisitions, park improvements, trails, p-patch improvements, shoreline street-end access improvements and urban forestry work.

Seattle Parks and Recreation's Planning and Development Division is responsible for implementation of the park projects since early in 2009.

Acquisitions: Since passage of the levy, Parks has acquired new park sites in the Capitol Hill, Lake City and Fremont urban villages; with other acquisitions in progress in Greenwood, North Rainier, University District, Morgan Junction and elsewhere. Open space has been acquired in the MeKwa Mooks, Thornton Creek, and other natural areas.

Development projects: By the end of this year, a total of 45 of the named levy projects will be done or brought to substantial completion. During this year, we have completed the Hubbard Homestead Park project at Northgate; the Delridge Skatepark; the Hundley Playfield project; and play areas at Golden Gardens Park, and Ross and Sandel Playgrounds. By year-end, the skatepark at Jefferson Park, as well as spray parks at Northacres Park and Georgetown Playfield, and the new Crown Hill Park will all be substantially complete. We will also have completed the demolition and grading work at the Discovery Park Capehart housing site. These projects will be done by early next year. Finally, next spring when we dedicate the Jefferson Skatepark and Beacon Mountain at Jefferson Park, we will celebrate the conversion of the reservoir property to Seattle's newest major park.

During 2011 we began the implementation of projects selected through last year's **Opportunity Fund** process. Ten of those twelve projects are now in planning or design, and planning will start next year on the other two. We are now working with the Citizens Oversight Committee to develop criteria and the specifics of the timeline for the next Opportunity Fund process that will occur in 2012, which should involve allocation of up \$8M for additional projects that will be identified through a public process.

In 2012 we will also start work on projects that will be undertaken with the recently approved re-programming of the levy's **development category inflation allowance** to 17 new projects that will address critical asset management needs. Included are replacement of roofs on 7 major parks buildings, such as the Green Lake Bathhouse and Van Asselt Community Center; replacement of the water distribution system at Seward Park; and re-building the tennis courts at Rainier Beach Playfield.